

## Preparedness and Planning

### September is National Preparedness Month!

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. Throughout September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. Visit the Ready.gov website for a full listing of Michigan and national events.

September is...  
**National  
Preparedness  
Month**  
Get a Kit, Make a Plan,  
Be Informed and  
Get Involved

### Protecting the Wounded during Mass Casualty Events

In an instant, an explosion or natural disaster can wreak havoc, producing numerous casualties with complex care needs. In response, new recommendations were published in CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports* and the American Medical Association's *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* journal on the use of immunizations and postexposure prophylaxis for tetanus and bloodborne pathogens in persons wounded during bombings or other events resulting in mass casualties. The recommendations contained in [this report](#), titled

"Recommendations for Postexposure Interventions to Prevent Infection with Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and Tetanus in Persons Wounded during Bombings and Other Mass-Casualty Events", represent the consensus of U.S. federal public health officials and reflect the experience and input of public health officials at all levels of government and the acute injury response community.



### Social Distancing Law Assessment Template

This template will guide public health leaders and legal counsel who formulate state, tribal, and local preparedness plans for pandemic influenza and other highly virulent infectious disease outbreaks in assessing the adequacy of their jurisdiction's current legal authorities. [The template](#) was designed by the Public Health Law Program and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, based on seventeen states' participation in the ASTHO-CDC Social Distancing Law Project during 2007.

## News

### Mutual Aid Agreements

Two articles in this issue discuss the various methods and considerations with developing mutual aid agreements with partners. Please see [page 2](#) for more information.

### First 2008 WNV Case in Michigan

A Lenawee County man was positively identified as the state's first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) for 2008. The 81-year-old man was hospitalized earlier this month after showing symptoms in late July. See [page 2](#) for details.

### Latino Preparedness Curriculum

Results from focus groups helped develop a training curriculum to help increase the knowledge and change behaviors in the Latino community on emergency preparedness. A pilot of the training curriculum occurred in the winter of 2008. Details are included on [page 3](#).

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### **Suggested Provisions for Public Health Mutual Aid Agreements**

With the assistance of an international panel of experts, the Public Health Law Program developed [this menu](#), designed to assist public health officials and their legal counsel in the development of mutual aid agreements for a variety of jurisdictions. Mutual aid agreements can be effective tools to assist U.S. state and local governments, Tribes, Canadian provinces, First Nations, and Mexican states in sharing information, data, supplies, resources, equipment, or personnel for the purpose of protecting the public's health.

### **Inventory of Mutual Aid Agreements and Related Resources**

This inventory is an [interactive tool](#) used to disseminate information and new developments in mutual aid to a wide audience, including U.S. state and local governments, Tribes, Canadian provinces, First Nations, and Mexican states. Contents include international, interstate, intrastate, and tribal mutual aid agreements.

### **The U.K. National Risk Registry**

This register is a first attempt to inform the public more fully of the types of risks that are faced in Britain. The publication of these risks was previously held confidential within government. [This register](#) provides a national picture of the risks the public faces, and it is intended to encourage public debate on security and help organizations, individuals, families and communities prepare for emergencies.

### **Exposure to Stress: Occupational Hazards in Hospitals**

Occupational stress has been a long-standing concern of the health care industry. Studies indicate that healthcare workers have higher rates of substance abuse and suicide than other professions and elevated rates of depression and anxiety linked to job stress. In addition to psychological distress, other outcomes of job stress include burnout, absenteeism, employee intent to leave, reduced patient satisfaction, and diagnosis and treatment errors. The purpose of [this brochure](#) is to identify the sources of occupational stress, identify the adverse health effects of occupational stress, and recommend work practices to reduce occupational stress.



### **National Action Agenda for Public Health Legal Preparedness**

The National Action Agenda presents some 100 "action options" that appointed and elected officials may use in assessing their jurisdictions' and agencies' legal preparedness for all-hazards public health emergencies and in making appropriate improvements to existing plans. Select content includes: "Improving Laws and Legal Authorities for Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness", and "Improving Information and Best Practices for Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness". Development of the [Action Agenda](#) was sponsored by CDC, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Emergency Management Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association, and twelve additional national partner organizations.

## **Surveillance**

### **Michigan's First 2008 Case of WNV**

A Lenawee County man was positively identified as the state's first human [case of West Nile Virus \(WNV\)](#) for 2008. The 81-year-old man was hospitalized earlier this month after showing symptoms in late July. He remains hospital-

ized. West Nile Virus is transmitted by mosquitoes. The end of summer is when mosquitoes are older and more likely to carry the virus. Most people bitten by a WNV infected mosquito show no symptoms of illness. However, some become sick three to 15 days after exposure. Michigan citizens are encouraged to limit their exposure to mosquitoes by installing screens over their windows and wearing insect repellent when outdoors.



## Communications

### Preparedness Curriculum for Hispanic Community

Montgomery County Advanced Practice Center and the Latino Health Initiative used the results from the focus groups to develop a training curriculum for the promotores de salud (lay health promoters) to help increase the knowledge and change behaviors in the Latino community on emergency preparedness. A pilot of the training curriculum occurred in the winter of 2008.

### Cybersecurity: How the Feds Are Securing Their Networks

The federal government is locking down its networks through an ambitious and fast-paced effort to eliminate connections to the internet that are vulnerable to attack. In the past nine months, the feds have reduced the number of external network connections they operate from more than 8,000 to about 2,700. By next year, the feds plan to have fewer than 100, many of them shared by multiple agencies. The federal government's remaining internet access points will have state-of-the-art security policies and managed security services, including antivirus, firewall, intrusion detection and traffic monitoring.

### FEMA to Distribute NOAA Public Alert Radios to Schools

The Departments of Homeland Security, Commerce, Education and Health and Human Services are preparing to implement the next phase of the 2008 NOAA Public Alert Radio Distribution. This phase includes the distribution of approximately 183,000 NOAA Public Alert Radios to public and non-public pre-schools, K-12 nonpublic schools, K-12 public and nonpublic District Offices, and public and nonpublic post secondary schools. The implementation of this program will place NOAA Alert Radios where they can communicate critical all hazard emergency information to school administrators across the United States. The program will also encourage all school leaders to work closely with their emergency managers to coordinate their school preparedness and response plans including their alert and warning systems with local emergency plans.



## Pandemic Planning

### States Confront Pandemic Planning Ethics

The Indiana University Center for Bioethics, Indiana State Department of Health and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials recently convened 'Confronting the Ethics of Pandemic Influenza Planning: The 2008 Summit of the States,' a two-day national event addressing the ethical issues of preparing for an influenza pandemic. State health officers and other senior public health officials from thirty-five U.S. states and territories convened in Indianapolis on

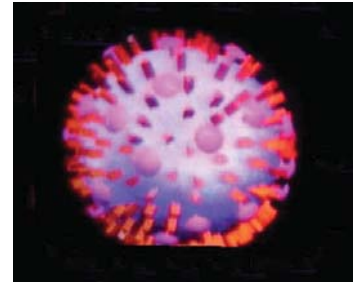
July 14-15 to identify key ethical challenges in pandemic influenza planning, share best practices and propose solutions. The resulting [communiqué](#) shares the key ethical challenges identified and proposes a broad range of action steps.

### **The Big 7 Pandemic Planning Mistakes**

A webcast from the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) will broadcast on October 9, 2008 regarding seven major [pandemic planning mistakes](#). Dr. Michael Osterholm Director of CIDRAP and Dr. Peter Sandman a risk communications consultant will discuss the issues and do a live question and answer session at the end. Register now for the webcast.

### **Case Fatality Factors of Human H5N1 Infections in Indonesia**

A study published in the August 15, 2008 edition of the *Lancet* compares factors that may be associated with case fatality with human infection of the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The researchers found that development of better diagnostic methods and improved case management might improve identification of patients with H5N1 influenza, which could decrease mortality by allowing for earlier treatment with oseltamivir. A subscription is required for [this website](#).



### **Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Regarding H5N1**

The journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases* recently published the results of a [survey](#) conducted in Afghanistan regarding knowledge of avian influenza H5N1. The researchers found that reduced exposure was associated with higher socioeconomic status.

### **Neutralizing Antibodies Derived 1918 Pandemic Survivors**

An [investigation](#) published in the journal *Nature* analyzed whether or not antibodies were still present in the bodies of the survivors of the 1918 pandemic. According to several studies, antibodies were present in those that were exposed to the 1918 pandemic virus. Scientists believe these antibodies could be helpful in providing protection to future pandemic strains of influenza.

## **Regional News**

### **Region 7 Preparedness Campaign**

Region 7 will be wrapping up a ten-week preparedness campaign soon. During the campaign they have partnered with locally owned grocery stores, hardware stores, radio stations, newspapers, a local emergency preparedness group, and county emergency management. During the ten-week program, Region 7 supplied partners with a supply list to encourage families to create an emergency preparedness kit. Region 7 Emergency Management and Homeland Security provided a \$4000 award to assist with publicity. During early September, Region 7 intends to present their lessons learned to participating agencies.

### **Ionia County Conducts Flu Exercise**

The Ionia County Health Department (ICHHD) conducted a pandemic influenza exercise within Ionia County on July 26. The exercise was designed to challenge the ability of emergency officials to mobilize local and state agencies during a fictional scenario involving an infectious disease. Numerous agencies participated in the exercise: Ionia County Board of Commissioners, Ionia City Council, Ionia County Emergency Management, City of Ionia Emergency Management, Ionia County Sheriff's Department, Ionia County Memorial Hospital, Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police, Ionia Central Dispatch, Mei-

jer Pharmacy, and Life EMS. The Ionia County Health Department thanks all of the participating agencies for taking part in all phases of this exercise. Without their input and cooperation, the goals and objectives of the exercise could not have been accomplished.

### **Do1Thing - Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties**

Do1Thing is a 12-month program that makes it easier for you to prepare yourself, your family, and your community for emergencies and disasters. Most people are aware of the need to prepare for emergencies and disasters, but don't get started because emergency preparedness is such a big job. The [Do1Thing](#) program breaks the job of emergency preparedness into twelve easy steps. Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties have been using this national program to promote preparedness for several years.

### **Region 7 Interoperable Communications Improvements**

Last year, Region 7's local emergency preparedness group identified a serious gap in their area regarding radio stations' ability to communicate during a power outage. Region 7 Emergency Management and Homeland Security supplied funding for generators for the radio stations in Region 7. This will allow public information to continue during a power outage. Further, the radio stations now have 800 MHz radios so they will be able to talk directly to the Region 7 emergency operations center should the telephones fail. The radios were installed through funding from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and the Emergency Broadcast system.

## **Training and Education**

### **Public Health Preparedness Training Website**

[This website](#) from the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Preparedness offers free internet-based trainings on public health preparedness topics such as, surveillance, PPE, isolation and quarantine, mass fatalities, continuity planning, decontamination, NIMS, food security and others.

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
online	<b>Framework for Improving Cross-Sector Coordination</b> Intended for local, state, and tribal jurisdictions developing capacity to address all-hazards public health emergencies, <a href="#">this framework</a> was designed to improve jurisdiction-wide response to all-hazards public health emergencies through strengthened coordination between the four sectors. Select content includes a discussion of guiding principles and relations among sectors, and action steps.	online



Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Aug. 26-27, 2008	<b>Is Your Long Term Care Facility Prepared for an Emergency?</b> PREPARE equips senior living and long-term care professionals with the core competencies to address the medical and psychosocial consequences of natural disasters and other public health emergency preparedness and response concerns. Two staff members from each organization/community are trained as PREPARE Specialists through a two-day train-the-trainer workshop. They gain the necessary tools to teach the eight learning modules to their staff. There is no charge for this training. See the <a href="#">informational flyer</a> for more information, including registration details.	MSU Mgmt Education Center 811 Sq Lake Road Troy, MI
Aug. 27, 2008 2:00pm	<b>Creating Vigilant, Prepared, and Resilient Communities</b> Key learning objectives for <a href="#">this program</a> : Recognize federal, state and local anti-terrorism and homeland security resources. Define the new and evolving roles and expectations of community leaders for homeland security. Identify community partners who will assist in identifying and addressing preparedness gaps. Use an implementation model to prepare an action plan. Evaluate methods to achieve identified goals for their jurisdiction.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Aug. 27, 2008	<b>CERC for Latino Public Health Communicators</b> Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) is an approach used by scientists and public health professionals to provide information that allows an individual, stakeholders or an entire community, to make the best possible decisions about their well-being, under nearly impossible time constraints, while accepting the imperfect nature of their choices. Scholarships are available (travel, lodging, and per diem) for 80 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no registration fee for CERC. See <a href="#">the weblink</a> for further information.	Houston, TX
Aug. 28, 2008 12-2pm	<b>Immunization Update 2008</b> This <a href="#">webcast</a> will provide up-to-date information on the rapidly changing field of immunization. Anticipated topics include influenza and zoster vaccines, recently approved vaccines, and updates on vaccine supplies and vaccine safety.	Webcast Only
Sept. 8-9, 2008	<b>News Media Training Seminar</b> This <a href="#">two-day training</a> involves breaking news simulations on everything from natural disasters to campus shootings to numerous other controversial issues with tips and training on how to deal with the media. Everyone will hold interviews or news conferences and receive a DVD video of their on-camera performance. The fee for this training is \$295.	Oakland Comm. College 2900 Featherstone Road Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Sept. 9-10, 2008	<b>Introduction to Emergency Management</b> This entry-level, <a href="#">two-day course</a> provides an overview of Michigan emergency management and the homeland security system. It focuses on disaster management by highlighting the laws, policies, and practices of government and private sector, with a critical look at past disasters and lessons learned. It is strongly recommended for all entry-level or returning emergency managers.	Lansing, MI

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Oct. 16, 2008 1-2:30pm	<b>Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Engaging At-risk Populations</b> The capacity to reach every person in the community is the goal of emergency preparedness planning. This will be especially important during a public health emergency that requires mass antibiotic dispensing to the entire population within the Cities Readiness Initiative goal of 48 hours. In <a href="#">this broadcast</a> , experts in the process of defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations as well as state and local public health professionals who have used this process will share their experiences.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Nov. 20-21, 2008	<b>Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer</b> This <a href="#">two-day course</a> will provide participants with the skills to teach the CERT program, while emphasizing the basic course along with the development of a program in their community. Previous experience providing and facilitating instruction for adults is desirable. Note: This is a course for CERT trainers and program managers-not for individuals desiring to become CERT team members.	Auburn Hills, MI



Photo by David Mason

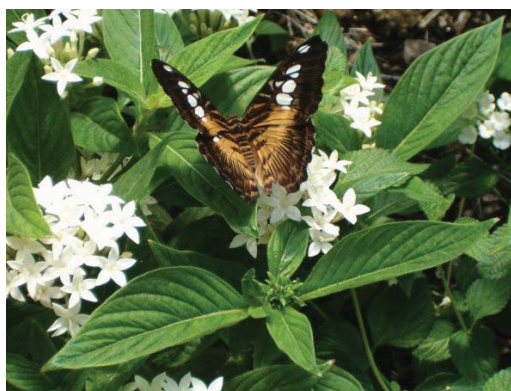


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